

AS INTRODUCED IN LOK SABHA

Bill No. 43 of 2019

THE OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT MEETINGS AND FUNCTIONS
(PROHIBITION ON SERVING NON-VEGETARIAN FOOD)
BILL, 2019

By

SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH, M.P.

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BILL

to prohibit non-vegetarian food from being served at official meetings and functions of Government of India for the purpose of animal conservation and impact on climate change.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventieth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Official Government Meetings and Functions (Prohibition on Serving Non-vegetarian Food) Act, 2019.

(2) It shall come into force on such date, as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

(3) It shall apply to the Ministries and Departments of the Central Government and all offices, organisations and establishments under the control of the Central Government.

Short title,
commencement
and application.

Ban on serving of non-vegetarian food in any official Government meetings.

Power to remove difficulties.

2. The serving of non-vegetarian food in any official meeting, function or event organised by or on behalf of the Central Government is hereby banned.

3. If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government may make such order or give such direction, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as appears to it to be necessary or expedient for the removal of any difficulty: 5

Provided that no such orders shall be made after the expiry of the period of three years from the date of commencement of this Act.

Power to make rules.

4. (1) The Central Government may, by notification in Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act. 10

(2) Every rule made under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament or, as the case may be, each House of the State Legislature, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, Parliament or, as the case may be, the State Legislature agrees in making any modification in the rule or agrees that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule. 15

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Consumption of non-vegetarian foods not only causes rampant abuse and killings of animals but also has devastating environmental impacts. For the purpose of human consumption, billions of living animals are made to go through gruesome treatment involving genetic manipulations, drug regimens, mutilations and much more every year. This goes vehemently against the laws and ethics of animal protection and conservation.

Apart from this, there are scientific studies and findings regarding the negative impacts that it has on environment and climate change. A United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) report by International Panel of Sustainable Report Management has said that lesser consumption of animal products is necessary to save the world from worst impacts of climate change. Another report by United Nations Food and Agriculture Organizations has highlighted how livestock sector puts tremendous pressure on water resources, land use and greenhouse gas emissions. To have an idea, it generates eighteen per cent. more carbon dioxide than transport sector. It emits sixty-five per cent. of the human related nitrous oxide which has 296 times the Global Warming Potential (GWP) than carbon dioxide. It accounts for thirty seven per cent. of all human induced Methane which is as twenty-three times as warming as carbon dioxide. Regarding land use, livestock covers thirty per cent of the entire land surface. Livestock sector is hugely responsible for water pollution and thus leading to eutrophication and the degeneration of coral reefs.

The need is to put forth an initiative whereby the Government can make an effort towards environment friendly practice. Citing the devastating impacts that meat industry has on environment and climate change, it is of urgent importance at least for the Government to take necessary steps and make its own contribution. The Bill, therefore, seeks for the Government to abandon non-vegetarian food in all the official meetings, functions and events organized by Government of India. This shall be an effort from the side of the Government to claim a positive stake in environment conservation and prevention of climate change.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;
June 4, 2019.

PARVESH SAHIB SINGH

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 4 of the Bill empowers the Central Government to make rules for carrying out the purposes of the Bill. As the rules will relate to matters of detail only, the delegation of legislative power is of a normal character.

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(*Shri Parvesh Sahib Singh, M.P.*)